



April 1, 2019

Supporting Educational Success

Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) invites your organization to apply for funding. An invitation to submit a proposal in no way guarantees a grant award. This is a competitive process. The deadline for proposal submission is **Friday, April 26, 2019, by 5:00 p.m.**

A majority of the funds used in this process are available thanks to the generosity and forward thinking of our donors. Some funds are restricted in various ways, as directed by donors, which influences funding decisions.

Because we've realigned the timing of this grant opportunity to match the school year calendar, projects that were funded in the 2018 cycle are ineligible for funding this year. However, an organization that received funding in the last cycle is eligible to apply for support of a different initiative.

Funding Focus

GCF has a dynamic history of investing in educational success throughout our eight-county region. We live in a region with sizable disparities; educational attainment has proven to be a primary means of advancement in our society. RFPs should explicitly address the following purposes:

To support in and/or out of school educational efforts that reduce disparities in educational attainment for students of color and/or those of low socioeconomic status; or that increase social emotional learning and health for those students.



Use of Funds

Grants will be awarded in the amount of up to \$25,000. Funding may be used to support, expand or strengthen existing programs, enact capital improvements, launch a new program or build organizational capacity. Collaboration between like organizations is highly favored. Funding will not be awarded for campaigns or special events. GCF is interested in hearing of innovative programs from established organizations.

Criteria

- Proposals will be accepted from any organization that meets the following criteria and aligns strongly with the funding focus of this RFP.
 - Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status and/or a school or church.
 - Grants will be made to organizations with efforts based in the Greater Cincinnati region, which includes the counties of: Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont in Ohio; Boone, Kenton and Campbell in Kentucky; and Dearborn in Indiana.
- Preference will be given to:
 - Organizations that develop solutions with an equity lens
 - Organizations that have demonstrated partnerships and alignment to community-wide efforts
 - Organizations that have demonstrated insights from their past results
 - Proposals with clear and measurable outcomes
 - Proposals with clear demonstration of anticipated improvement of educational achievement outcomes
 - Proposals addressing key factors influencing educational outcomes (e.g. attendance, discipline reduction, classroom management, etc.)
- If your organization needs to utilize a fiscal agent, the fiscal agent must be identified in the application.



Grant Limitations

GCF does not provide funding for the following purposes, entities or activities:

- Religious organizations that require religious activity for participation.
- Playgrounds, sports teams or sports activities.
- Regular operating or capital projects for individual public, private or parochial schools or universities (including student clubs, school bands, booster clubs, PTAs, etc.).
- Vehicles.

Application Process

Respond to this RFP via [GCF's online grantmaking system](#) using the "GCF Responsive Grant Application." After creating a new account and/or logging in, complete the application and submit by the deadline listed in this RFP.

Upload the following documents in the final section of the application:

- Most recent audit or 990 (this document should be uploaded in the first slot)
- Income Statement and Balance Sheet (previous two years)
- Project Budget
- Board List (with demographic information) and Key Staff for proposed project

Use of provided templates is highly encouraged but not required.

RFP Timeline

Key Steps	Date
RFP Workshop at GCF 200 W 4th St., Cincinnati, OH	Tuesday, April 9, 2019 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Proposal Deadline	Friday, April 26, 2019 by 5:00 p.m.
Decision Communicated	Late June
Funding Received	Early July



Questions

Answers to general questions are available on our website at www.gcfdn.org/faq.

Please direct any additional questions that you may have to Evie Epifano, Program Manager, at evie.epifano@gcfdn.org. Thank you for considering partnership with Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and we look forward to learning from your submission.

GCF Mission

As a trusted and connected partner, we inspire generous people to invest in a more equitable and vibrant region, now and for generations to come.